

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendments filed 6/30/08 overcome the rejections over Seguchi in the office action mailed 1/28/08, but do not overcome the rejection over JP 2002-265630. Newly added claim 20 is also rejected below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 6, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-265630.

This rejection of claims 6 and 14 is adequately set forth in paragraph 4 of the office action mailed 1/28/08, which is incorporated here by reference. Newly added claim 20 recites the plastic in product-by-process form. The difference between the process recited in the '630 reference and the process recited in claim 20 is that the process of the '630 reference does not disclose applying a vacuum-suction to the extruder during kneading. However, this step of applying a vacuum-suction does not appear to affect the structure of the resinous material, and therefore does not distinguish the product of claim 20 over the reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5, 12-13, and 15-19 are allowed.

Claim 5, and its dependent claims 12 and 15-19 have been amended to require that at least part of an active end group of the fluororesin is chemically bonded with a part of the thermoplastic resin. The Seguchi reference discussed in the previous office

actions does not teach this bonding, and does not disclose heating the resin during kneading, and therefore would not be expected to produce a product having such bonding. JP 2003-265630, as discussed in paragraph 2 above, does produce a resinous material containing such bonding, but does not disclose or suggest combining the material with a lubricating oil.

Claim 13 is allowed for the reasons discussed in the previous office action mailed 1/28/08.

Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While JP 2002-265630 discloses a resinous material meeting the limitations of claim 20, it does not teach or suggest a seal ring made from such a material.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments regarding claims 6 and 14 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the '630 reference does not disclose a process of applying heat and vacuum-suction during kneading. However, paragraph 19 of the '630 reference discloses kneading at a temperature of 350° C. Based on applicant's own explanation in paragraph 9 lines 13-25 it appears that it is the heating that leads to the chemical bonding of the active end groups of the fluororesin. The application of vacuum-suction does not appear to affect the structure of the resinous material product.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Goloboy whose telephone number is (571)272-2476. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JCG

/Glenn A Caldarola/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 1797